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Heron – The Brown Room

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by [Alex Routledge](#)
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Heron's debut album is a self-produced majestic effort, blending American country, '60s rock, psychedelia and electronica. An eclectic mix of beats and melodies, with influences ranging from [Primal Scream](#) and [Delakota](#) to [Aphex Twin](#) sees the musician dabbling with electronics and new sounds and mixing these with traditional songwriting.



Starting with the electro-funk of 'J-Funk', Heron takes us through the country piano balladry of 'I Want 2 Know', a theme revisited on 'Jukebox Saloon'. The meandering, memorable rhythms flow sweetly over the lo-fi production and the result is a folk-tinged, touching song. The acoustic guitar psychedelia of 'We Get High' offers an alternative, modern take on some of **The Beatles'** later, more narcotic offerings, whilst 'Keyboard Song' is an innovative remaking of some of **Cass Browne's** work with 'Delakota'.

The American rock/electronica crossover on 'Umbrella', Heron's debut single, is both powerful and dramatic, as he mixes disparate beats and laid-back melodies to great effect. Meanwhile the recurring electro theme reemerges on 'Cracked Analogue' as beats and electronics compete over the unusual soundscapes, an unlikely blend of Primal Scream and **Beck**. 'I'll B Your Alibi' makes for uneasy listening in some parts as high-tenor vocals merge with noise rock influences. Although one of the less inspirational tracks on offer, it shows a wide variety of influences and its unpredictability and sweeping changes are its saving grace.

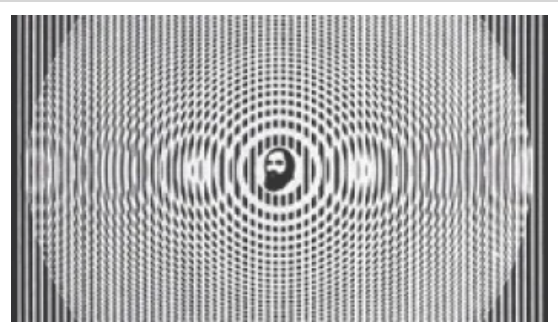
The album's closer is ballad 'Every Little Thing', a whispery, piano lament and a fitting finale to the album. The most memorable track on the album, its minimal but awe-inspiring melodies are a stroke of genius.

'The Brown Room' is an interesting album, as inspiring as it is innovative. Heron mixes a plethora of influences from the last four decades, whilst still conjuring up his own magical sound. His album is unlikely to change your life, but it is nevertheless a work of beauty and intrigue.

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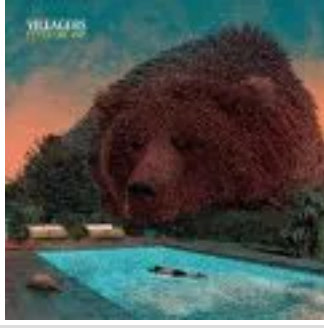
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